

Volleyball Yeomen falter in finals

Rose Crawford

For the York Yeomen volleyball team, the 1980-81 CIAU championships were a frustrating and disappointing affair.

Going into the tournament ranked third behind University of Manitoba and University of Alberta, they could manage no better than a fifth place finish by the tournament's end.

Things got off to a bad start even before the Yeomen left TO for Victoria, B.C. Coach Wally Dyba was informed at the airport that Bruce Bert, one of the starting six, would not be able to make the trip due to an attack of stomach flu. Bert eventually made it out to Victoria but was unable to play at his peak potential.

The Yeomen began their championship schedule against the host University of Victoria and had no problem with the Vikings, defeating them three games to one.

In their second game, the York squad faced the Dalhousie Tigers in a match which Dyba described as "strange...it looked like neither team wanted to win." In the first game of that match York at one point led 8-2, but went on to lose 11-15. They easily won the next two games 15-7, and 15-4 and gave up the fourth game 7-15. In the fifth game, after trailing 8-1, the Yeomen came back to win the game 15-12 and the match three games to two.

They thus ended the first day of competition undefeated and in first place.

The following day, they started off against the University of Alberta, which had defeated the number one ranked University of Manitoba the day before.

Early in the first game of the match, Jim Claveau, another of the six starters, suffered a broken thumb and was lost to the Yeomen for the remainder of the tournament. They went on to lose that match three games to none.

From that point on, things only got worse for the Yeomen who faced Sherbrooke and lost three games to one.

"It was very frustrating because we knew we were the better team. We just couldn't get on track, and

we didn't get any breaks from the officials either," commented Dyba after the match.

With only one more match to go against the U of Manitoba, there was still an outside chance for the Yeomen to make the playoffs, but a three to nothing loss to the Bisons eliminated them from further play.

In the championship game the Alberta Golden Bears upset the Manitoba Bisons to take the CIAU title.

The one bright spot for the Yeomen was the selection of Dave Chambers as a first team All Canadian.



THE AGONY OF DEFEAT...Yeoman Dave Chambers sits dejected after a crucial York defeat.

Harry Orbach

Yeomen taste sweet revenge

Michael Leonetti

Scoring an especially sweet victory, York Yeomen avenged a heartbreaking 78-76 loss in the 1979 Ontario final by soundly defeating the Windsor Lancers, 83-72, last Saturday night to capture the OUA basketball championship for the second consecutive year.

Veteran All-Canadian David Coulthard led Yeomen with 22 points, while Paul Jones added 17 in the process of winning the game's most valuable player award.

For the Lancers it was guard Phil Hermanutz who led the scoring, netting 22 points.

York coach Bob Bain believes that the key to the Yeomen victory was their ability to shut off Windsor's inside game. "That's what they like to do. So we worked hard on defending their inside game and shutting it out." Bain points out that York held Windsor's big man, Stan Korosec, to only eight points for the game, a dozen below his average.

Another important factor in the win was Windsor's pre-occupation with Coulthard. While Lancers keyed on the superb guard it opened up room for others, like M.V.P. Paul Jones, to operate in. Yeomen were able to capitalize on such opportunities.

This game marked the end of an era. It was the last game to be played at Windsor's Dennis Hall, affectionately referred to as 'The Pit'. This neanderthal athletic facility is not an easy place to win in, as Bain points out.

"The noise is amazing," said Bain, "but I enjoyed going there because it gave us a chance to get even."

Windsor will be opening a new athletic facility in the fall.

As for the upcoming national

championships, both the Yeomen and the Lancers (as winners of the West Division) will move on to Waterloo to start the competition today. With his team's many disappointments behind it, Bob Bain states the case quite simply: "We'll do what we've done all year. The games will be close and if we play well we'll win, if we don't, we won't."

Bain thinks that York's first opponent, St. Francis Xavier, may have an advantage because "they have played in a tough league all year, so they could have an edge in that respect."

One source of optimism around the Yeomen camp is the return of Bo Pelech to the line-up. He is working himself back into good playing condition and is doing well in scrimmages. Bain says Pelech "will not start, but he'll certainly be available." A healthy Pelech could provide the needed margin of victory for the Yeomen in their search for the national title.

Competition for the nationals will be tough. A total of eight teams will be at the finals, including St. Francis Xavier, Brandon, Concordia, Victoria, Waterloo and Acadia Axemen. But the pressure will be on the Yeomen, who are once again rated number one.

Hopefully the Windsor victory has provided the team with a winning note as they head into the finals. The team will need a good mental attitude and all the confidence it can muster if Yeomen are to have any aspirations of winning the big apple.

"It's not what you accomplish in life, it's what you overcome."
Johnny Miller

Whibbs ad libs

Jules 'Sparky' Xavier

Keiller MacKay Collegiate graduate Barb Whibbs, York's 5'10" centre was quite "surprised" at being named to the All-Canadian second team. This is only her second season with the Yeowomen basketball team.

The talented yet modest athlete didn't think she had a chance at the beginning of the season of being chosen. "I had such a slow start and wasn't consistent," Whibbs said reflecting on her past season.

As a rookie Whibbs set a OWIAA record scoring 42 points in one

game. Weeks later the record fell as another player topped her new record.

It was a change for Whibbs this season playing in Tier 1. "Tier 2 was easy to play in but moving into Tier 1 this year was quite a change. They (Tier 1 teams) play a far tougher game than those in Tier 2. We had quite a few close games this year whereas last season we would blow a team out of the gym," she said. "You've got to fight for everything you can get in Tier 1."

Whibbs' future outlook for the

team is to make the nationals, a goal the Yeowomen just missed out on this season. "With depth and experience we'll move from being a good team to a better team," said Whibbs when questioned about the future of women's basketball at York. "I just hope I can live up to my play for next season."

Rest assured All-Canadian Barb Whibbs will be back on the courts come 1981-82 with bigger and better plans for the Yeowomen basketball team.



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